

立法會

Legislative Council

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Panel on Constitutional Affairs

Background brief prepared by Legislative Council Secretariat for the meeting on 15 November 2010

Declaration mechanism by Executive Council Members

Purpose

This paper gives a brief account of the discussions held by the Panel on Constitutional Affairs ("the Panel") regarding the declaration mechanism by Executive Council ("ExCo") Members.

Background

2. Under Article 54 of the Basic Law ("BL"), ExCo is an organ for assisting the Chief Executive ("CE") in policy making. Under BL 55, ExCo Members shall be appointed by CE from among principal officials of the executive authorities, Legislative Council ("LegCo") Members and public figures. At present, the membership of ExCo comprises the 15 Principal Officials ("POs") appointed under the Accountability System and 14 non-officials. Their appointment or removal shall be decided by CE. Under BL 56, except for the appointment, removal and disciplining of officials and the adoption of measures in emergencies, CE shall consult ExCo before making important policy decisions, introducing bills to LegCo, making subordinate legislation, or dissolving LegCo.

3. According to the Administration, the types of registrable interests on the ExCo Member's Declaration are as follows -

- (a) remunerated directorships in any public or private company;
- (b) remunerated employments, offices, trades, profession, etc;
- (c) names of clients (if any of the above registrable interests includes provision to clients of personal services which arise out of or relate in any manner to the position as an ExCo Member);
- (d) land and property owned in Hong Kong or outside Hong Kong;

- (e) names of companies or other bodies in which the Member of ExCo has, to his knowledge, either himself or with or on behalf of his spouse or children, a beneficial interest in shareholdings of a nominal value greater than 1% of the issued share capital; and
- (f) membership of boards, committees and other organisations which might be construed by members of the public as a declaratory interest.

4. A copy of the ExCo Declaration form provided by the Administration is in **Appendix I**.

Relevant issues raised by the Panel

Prevention of conflict of interest during participation in ExCo business

5. At its meetings on 7 and 21 October 2002, the Panel discussed the subject matter of declaration and handling of investments/interests by POs under the Accountability System. Members expressed concern whether proper arrangements had been put in place to prevent POs from participating in the business of ExCo in cases of possible conflict of interest.

6. The Administration advised that there were no hard and fast rules on what would constitute a conflict of interest, but the following would likely be considered as having a conflict of interest -

- (a) significant personal pecuniary interests which might be materially affected by the decision of ExCo;
- (b) directorship, partnership or advisory positions of companies or associations which might be materially affected by the decision of ExCo;
- (c) professional positions held by ExCo Members in advising or representing any party in connection with the item under discussion; and
- (d) close or substantial interests which, if known publicly, might lead members of the public to think that an ExCo Member's advice might well have been motivated by his personal interest rather than by the duty to give impartial advice.

7. The Administration explained that the Clerk to ExCo kept the Register of Members' Interests. The ExCo Secretariat would check the registered interests against the discussion items of an ExCo meeting in ascertaining the possibility of a conflict of interest in respect of particular ExCo Members. If considered necessary, a Member would be requested not to participate in the discussion, or the Secretariat could withhold relevant ExCo papers and minutes from the Member. The final decision on whether an ExCo Member should withdraw from the discussion of a particular item or be withheld from access to the relevant ExCo papers is vested in CE.

8. The Administration stressed that it was the personal responsibility of the individual ExCo Member to decide whether or not he had an interest in the matter under discussion and, if so, the Member should declare it to CE and other ExCo colleagues prior to discussion of the relevant item. The basic principle was that an ExCo Member must tender to CE disinterested and impartial advice. Details of Members' declarations and withdrawal from discussion at ExCo meetings would be recorded in the minutes. The minutes of ExCo meetings, however, would not be made public.

9. Some members sought clarification about the meaning of "significant pecuniary interest" which would likely be considered as involving a conflict of interest (paragraph 6(a) refers). They asked whether an ExCo Member holding substantial amount of land and properties would be considered as having significant personal pecuniary interest, and therefore should withdraw from participating in ExCo's discussion of any housing or land planning issues which might have an impact on property market.

10. The Administration advised that an ExCo Member had the duty to declare his interests where necessary, and it was a matter for CE to decide if there existed a genuine conflict of interest and whether the Member should participate in the discussion. According to the Administration, there were no hard and fast rules on what constituted a conflict of interest. The term "pecuniary interest" appeared in a number of ordinances. However, the term had not been defined in any of them. According to its plain and literal meaning, "pecuniary interests" referred to financial interests or interests in money or money's worth. What amounted to a significant personal pecuniary interest would depend on the facts of each particular case, such as the nature of the interest and how such interests would be affected by the outcome of the decision made by ExCo. Examples of having a significant personal pecuniary interest might include interest as owner, trustee, beneficiary, etc. which might be materially affected by the decision of ExCo. If an ExCo Member had such interests, he would not receive the papers and minutes and would not participate in the discussion of the relevant item. If the personal pecuniary interest was not considered significant enough to warrant this arrangement, the ExCo Member would still be required to declare his interest prior to the discussion of the relevant item.

Scope of interest to be declared when participating in ExCo business

11. Following the CE's announcement in his Policy Address 2009-2010 of the proposed distribution of cash coupons for compact fluorescent lamps to residential electricity account holders, there were media reports that CE's in-law was engaged in light bulb business. At its meeting on 16 November 2009, the Panel discussed the subject matter of system of declaration of interests by CE and POs under the Accountability System.

12. Some members were of the view that while it was unreasonable to expect the system of declaration of interests to cover all relatives, CE should have declared any potential conflict of interest he was aware of to ExCo for record in order to avoid

arousing any suspicion of dishonesty or unfairness. They considered that there was a need to improve the declaration system, and to review the extent to which the declaration should cover. Some other members, however, considered that while there should be a declaration system to avoid transfer of benefits and to ensure accountability, it would discourage people from pursuing a career in politics if the declaration system was made too stringent.

13. The Administration advised that CE as the President of ExCo had, similar to other ExCo Members, declared his interests in "The Register of Interests of Members of ExCo" for the purpose of public inspection. The Code for Officials under the Political Appointment System ("the Code") applied to all politically appointed officials who were required to declare their investments and interests. The Code covered not only "actual" conflict of interest, but also "potential" conflict of interest. As to whether a certain interest would constitute any "potential" conflict of interest would depend much on the circumstances of each case. POs had declared to CE prior to the relevant discussion if they had any private interest in the matter to be discussed which normally involved POs themselves or their immediate family members. As regards the other relatives, it would be up to POs to exercise their judgment. The Administration stressed that a balance had to be struck between maintaining a system to prevent conflict of interest and respecting the privacy of the politically appointed officials and their family members.

14. For detailed discussion of the issues relating to declaration of interests by POs under the Accountability System, members may wish to refer to the relevant background brief prepared by the LegCo Secretariat for the Panel meeting on 16 November 2009 [LC Paper No. CB(2)244/09-10(04)].

Relevant questions raised at Council meetings

15. Ms Emily LAU raised two questions on declaration of interests by ExCo Members at the Council meetings on 16 June 1999 and 16 June 2004. The extracts from the Official Records of Proceedings of the relevant Council meetings are in **Appendices II and III**.

Relevant documents

16. A list of the relevant documents is in **Appendix IV** for Members' easy reference. These papers/documents are available on LegCo's web site at <http://www.legco.gov.hk>.

**Register of Interests of
Members of the Executive Council**

Name of Member: _____

Registrable Interests

Contents

1. Remunerated directorships in any public or private company

[Notes:

- (a) “Remunerated directorships” include all directorships for which a fee, honorarium, allowance or other material benefit is payable.
- (b) Please give the name of the company, briefly stating the nature of the business of the company in each case.
- (c) Remunerated directorships of both Hong Kong companies and those outside Hong Kong are registrable.
- (d) Remunerated directorships through corporate directors are also registrable.
- (e) Where you are a remunerated director of a company, all subsidiary or associated directorships which you hold within the same group, whether remunerated or not, should also be registered.]

* Please provide information on separate sheets if necessary. Please sign on every such separate sheet.

Registrable Interests

Contents

2. Remunerated Employments, Offices, Trades, Profession, etc.

[Notes:

- (a) Indicate the name of the employment, office, trade, or profession.
 - (b) An employment, office, trade or profession is “remunerated” where a salary, honorarium, allowance or other material benefit is payable.
 - (c) “Remunerated offices” should include all “remunerated” public offices.
 - (d) Members who have paid posts as consultants or advisers should indicate the nature of the consultancy in the register; for example, “management consultant”, “legal adviser”, etc.
 - (e) All remunerated employments in Hong Kong and outside Hong Kong are registrable.
3. Please indicate the names of clients if any of the above registrable interests includes provision to clients of personal services which arise out of or relate in any manner to your position as a Member of the Executive Council.

Registrable Interests

Contents

4. Land and property owned in Hong Kong or outside Hong Kong, including those for self-occupation. Land or property which are held in the name of Members' spouses, children or other persons or companies, but are actually owned by Members; or land or property which are not owned by Members, but in which Members have a beneficial interest (e.g. rental income), are all registrable. It is not necessary to provide detailed addresses of the land or property.

5. Names of companies (both listed and unlisted ones) or other bodies in which the Member has, to his knowledge, either himself or with or on behalf of his spouse or children, a beneficial interest in shareholdings of a nominal value greater than 1% of the issued share capital.

6. Membership of Boards, Committees and other organisations which might be construed by members of the public as a declaratory interest - e.g. Hong Kong General Chamber of Commerce, Real Estate Developers Association, etc.

Date: _____

Signature: _____

~~SECRETARY FOR HOUSING (in Cantonese): Madam President, I believe we will include the situation mentioned by the Honourable Member as one of the topics for consideration by the working group.~~

PRESIDENT (in Cantonese): Third question.

Declaration of Interests by Executive Council Members

3. **MISS EMILY LAU** (in Cantonese): *Madam President, in her reply to the Chairman of the Panel on Information Technology and Broadcasting of this Council on 11 May, the Director of Administration said that a Member of the Executive Council, who is employed by a company a division of which had been engaged by the Government to conduct a strategic assessment on the concept of a Cyberport in Hong Kong, had not been excluded from the deliberations of the Council on the Cyberport project, because the interest involved was not a direct and significant pecuniary interest and did not amount to an exclusionary interest. In this connection, will the executive authorities inform this Council:*

- (a) *of the definitions of "direct and significant pecuniary interest" and "exclusionary interest" (please give examples to illustrate what constitute such interests); of the reasons for the Executive Council Member, whose company had been involved in the assessment of the Cyberport concept, not being regarded as having a direct and significant pecuniary interest which amounted to an exclusionary interest in the deliberations of the Cyberport project;*
- (b) *whether the current rules of the Executive Council on declaration of interests and on exclusion from deliberations are different from those before the handover of sovereignty; if so, of the differences; and*
- (c) *of the number of occasions since the handover of sovereignty on which Executive Council Members declared direct and significant pecuniary interests or exclusionary interests, and were excluded from deliberations of the Council on the related matters; and the*

nature of such declarations and exclusions?

CHIEF SECRETARY FOR ADMINISTRATION (in Cantonese): Madam President,

- (a) (1) The Executive Council has a long-established mechanism for Members to declare their interests in matters laid before the Council. This is to ensure that the advice tendered by Executive Council Members to the Chief Executive is disinterested and impartial. The existence of a direct and significant interest would normally result in a Member withdrawing from the Council during the discussion of the relevant item. Such interests can be broadly divided into the following categories:
- (i) significant personal pecuniary interests which may be materially affected by the decision of the Council;
 - (ii) directorship, partnership or advisory positions of companies or associations which may be materially affected by the decision of the Council;
 - (iii) professional positions held by Members in advising or representing any party in connection with the item under discussion; and
 - (iv) all close or substantial interests which, if known publicly, may lead reasonable members of the public to think that a Member's advice may well have been motivated by his personal interest rather than by the duty to give impartial advice.

The above interests are regarded as exclusionary interests. In other words, a "direct and significant pecuniary interest" constitutes an "exclusionary interest".

Interests other than exclusionary interests, whether direct or indirect, even when remote and non-pecuniary, should also be declared where they might be thought likely to incline a Member towards a particular stance on the item under discussion.

- (2) In the discussion of the Cyberport project at the Executive Council, the outcome of the strategic assessment on the concept of a Cyberport was not the focus of discussion ; it was only part of the background information. The focus was on whether the Government should enter into detailed discussions with the project proponent on the framework for the implementation of the project. The Executive Council Member concerned holds a senior position in a company, a division of which was engaged by the Government, and not the project proponent, to conduct a strategic assessment on the concept of a Cyberport in Hong Kong. The company has never been involved in the Government's negotiations with the project proponent, nor has it been asked to advise on the terms being negotiated. Even so, the Executive Council Member mentioned in the question still declared an interest at the meeting in accordance with the requirements. However, as the declared interest was not a direct and significant pecuniary interest and did not amount to an exclusionary interest, that Member was not excluded from the deliberation of the Executive Council on that occasion.
- (b) The present rules on the declaration of interests by Members of the Executive Council are basically the same as those before the reunification. We have, however, elaborated certain guidelines to enable Members to furnish a more detailed return on their registrable interests.
- (c) The Executive Council held 87 meetings and discussed 741 items during the period from 1 July 1997 to 8 June 1999. Sixty-two declarations of direct and significant interests were made by Members of the Executive Council with regard to 45 items laid before the Council. As a result of which, the relevant Members were excluded from the deliberations of the Council on the matters

concerned. The nature of such declarations and exclusions mainly related to the directorship or partnership of or advisory positions held by Members in companies or associations which may be materially affected by the decision of the Council on the relevant items.

During the same period, 539 declarations of other declaratory interests were made by Executive Council Members with regard to 214 items laid before the Council. The nature of such interests mainly related to membership of boards, committees and tribunals.

MISS EMILY LAU (in Cantonese): *Madam President, all the matters discussed by the Executive Council are highly sensitive and extremely important issues which affect the various different aspects of our community. And, there are also intricate connections between some Executive Council Members and the commercial sector. That being the case, how can the Chief Secretary for Administration convince the people of Hong Kong that the existing mechanism for Executive Members to declare their interests can, as he asserted a moment ago, enable them to give disinterested and impartial advice?*

Madam President, how can we be sure that when Executive Members take part in the relevant discussions after declaring their interests, they will always stand for the interests of the public, instead of their own interests or those of their friends, relatives and various other people in the commercial sector?

CHIEF SECRETARY FOR ADMINISTRATION (in Cantonese): Madam President, as I said in the main reply, the interests which have to be declared can be broadly divided into several categories. Sometimes, individual Executive Members are required to declare their interests because they are the persons affected, as when the discussions and decisions of the Council may materially affect their own interests or those of the companies or associations in which they hold positions. And, one example of such interests are pecuniary interests. Such interests, as I stated clearly in the main reply, will result directly in an Executive Member withdrawing from the Council during the discussion of the relevant item. Besides, I have also stated clearly in my main reply the total number of meetings held by the Executive Council since the reunification and the number of occasions on which Executive Council Members were required to

withdraw from the relevant discussions after declaring their interests. I should perhaps explain once again that whenever an Executive Council Member is required to withdraw from the relevant discussions because of any declarable interests, he will not receive any document on the relevant item of discussion before the meeting. When the meeting discusses the relevant item, he will have to withdraw and will thus be barred from any participation in the discussion. So, there is in fact no justification for the worry expressed by the Honourable Member just now, because the Executive Council Member concerned will simply have no input. He cannot even have access to the relevant documents, let alone any chance to take part in the discussions. But what about other interests? Let us perhaps look at the case of the officials sitting on the Executive Council. When it comes to civil service pay rise, they are of course directly affected, but their participation in the relevant discussions will not possibly bring them any extra, illegitimate income. For this reason, while they need to declare their interests, they do not have to withdraw or refrain from discussing the matter. Therefore, we must differentiate between these two categories of declarable interests. And, the statistics given in my main reply can show the number of declarations made by Executive Council Members, together with the categories of these declarations and the actions which we took in response.

MR LEUNG YIU-CHUNG (in Cantonese): *Madam President, it is mentioned in part (c) of the main reply of the Chief Secretary for Administration that 62 declarations of direct and significant interests were made by Executive Council Members with regard to 45 items out of the 741 items discussed in the 87 Executive Council meetings held during the period in question. After calculations, I find that the rate of such declarations is just 6%, which is in no way high. But he explained very clearly later on that all these declarations were made by Executive Council Members holding positions in companies and associations which might be affected materially. For this reason, these declarations all involved the direct and significant interests mentioned in part (a) of the main reply.*

As we all know, the membership of the Executive Council is very small, and this may have an implication for the system of withdrawal from meetings, because given the possibility that every Executive Council Member may at one time or another withdraw from meetings, actual attendances may well be even smaller than the already tiny membership. In that case, the efficiency of the Executive Council may be affected, and the range of its discussion topics may

also be reduced, thus hindering its very operation. May I ask the Chief Secretary for Administration whether the composition of the Executive Council will be reviewed? For instance, will he consider the possibility of abolishing the existing appointment system, which is undemocratic and may easily give rise to favouritism? And, will he instead consider the idea of setting up another appointment system which is fairer and more impartial?

CHIEF SECRETARY FOR ADMINISTRATION (in Cantonese): Madam President, perhaps there is a little misunderstanding here. I have no power to make any decision concerning the composition of the Executive Council, nor have I been involved in any way in any relevant reviews. When the Chief Executive talked about the future composition of the Executive Council yesterday, he said that he would consider many different factors. I am not in the position to answer the question asked by the Honourable Member just now. But as Members are aware, the Executive Council is actually supposed to provide direct advice to the Chief Executive, and to assist him in making various different decisions. That is why its Members are not elected.

MR LEE WING-TAT (in Cantonese): *Madam President, it is mentioned in part (c) of the main reply that of all the 741 items discussed by the Executive Council in the past two years, 62 involved significant pecuniary interests, and there were also 539 declarations of other declarable interests. All this shows that intricate connections do exist between the Executive Council and the commercial sector. In view of the fact that Executive Council Members can have access to the most significant and sensitive policies and information of the Government, will the Government consider the idea of requiring all Executive Council Members to give up their positions in commercial organizations and cut all the relevant ties during their terms of office, so as to reduce conflicts of interests?*

CHIEF SECRETARY FOR ADMINISTRATION (in Cantonese): Madam President, I think we should understand that nothing really special has in fact happened recently, because the need for declaration of interests has always existed throughout all these years, which is why we have put in place a sound mechanism requiring Executive Council Members to declare their interests. Besides, we also keep a register on the personal interests declared by Executive Council Members. Whenever a person is appointed as an Executive Council Member, he will be required to declare all his personal interests, including the

directorships, partnerships and advisory positions which he holds in any companies or associations, and all these particulars will be entered into the register. As we all know, this register is accessible to all members of the public upon request. I am sure that many journalists have themselves looked up this register, and some of the information contained in it has in fact been published in the press. We think that this is already a very effective safeguard, because people are thus able to know what interests Executive Council Members are holding and the extent of their involvement. And, they will also know whether Executive Council Members are discharging their duties in a fair manner.

MR JAMES TO (in Cantonese): *Madam President, it is mentioned in part (c) of the main reply that 62 declarations of direct and significant interests were made by Executive Council Members with regard to 45 items laid before the Executive Council. May I ask the Government whether it will disclose the number of declarations made by individual Executive Council Members and the contents of such declarations?*

CHIEF SECRETARY FOR ADMINISTRATION (in Cantonese): Madam President, I am sure that Honourable Members should be well aware of the rule of confidentiality applying to the agenda of the Executive Council and the matters discussed by it. That is why we will not disclose the interests declared by individual Executive Council Members during any particular meetings. But we are prepared to make some disclosures on the statistics, as what we have done today. In other words, we are prepared to disclose the number of Executive Council Members who have made declarations over a period of time and the number of discussion items involved.

MR JAMES TO (in Cantonese): *Madam President, my question is on the number of individual Executive Council Members making declarations of interests. Madam President, I fail to see how this would enable people to know the contents of the discussions held by the Executive Council. I simply fail to see why.*

PRESIDENT (in Cantonese): Chief Secretary for Administration, do you have

anything to add?

CHIEF SECRETARY FOR ADMINISTRATION (in Cantonese): Madam President, I should perhaps add one point, because I have probably misinterpreted the supplementary question of Mr James TO. We will consider the idea of disclosing the number of declarations made by individual Executive Council Members. (Annex I)

Annex I

WRITTEN ANSWER

Written answer by the Chief Secretary for Administration to Mr James TO's supplementary question to Question 3

A breakdown of the number of occasions on which individual Executive Council Members declared direct and significant interests in matters laid before the Council during the period from 1 July 1997 to 8 June 1999 is attached herewith for Members' reference.

Appendix

<i>Executive Council Members</i>	<i>No. of occasions on which Executive Council Members declared direct and significant interests and withdrew from discussion of the items concerned from 1 July 1997 to 8 June 1999</i>
Chief Secretary for Administration	3 (the position held by a close relative in a company in connection with the items of discussion)
Financial Secretary	0
Secretary for Justice	0
Dr the Honourable Sze-yuen CHUNG (now retired)	23 (as non-executive directors of a number of companies)
The Honourable LEUNG Chun-ying	0
The Honourable YANG Ti-liang	1 (a position in an association)
The Honourable Mrs Nellie FONG WONG Kut-man	4 (a remunerated position in a company)
Dr the Honourable Rosanna WONG Yick-ming	2 (a remunerated position in an association and as non-executive director of a company)
The Honourable TAM Yiu-chung	11 (personal interest in the items of discussion)
Dr the Honourable Raymond CH'IEN Kuo-fung	1 (as non-executive director of a company)
The Honourable Charles LEE Yeh-kwong	5 (as consultant in a company)
The Honourable Henry TANG Ying-yen	8 (personal interest in the items of discussion)
The Honourable Antony LEUNG Kam-chung	2 (as Board member of a corporation)
The Honourable CHUNG Shui-ming	2 (as Board member of a corporation)
Total	62

<i>Location</i>	<i>Latest Situation</i>
27. Po Lin Monastery at Ngong Ping	There are 13 coach parking spaces. Upon completion of the public transport interchange in late 2004, an additional 19 coach parking spaces will be provided.

Declaration of Interests by Executive Council Members

12. **MS EMILY LAU:** *Madam President, Executive Council Members are required to declare certain types of interests in a Register of Members' Interests (the Register), which is available for public inspection on request at the Executive Council Secretariat. Executive Council Members are also required to declare to the Chief Executive, on a confidential basis, additional information on financial interests relating to shareholdings in companies and beneficial interests in the form of contracts traded on the Hong Kong Futures Exchange, held either on their own behalf or jointly with a close relative, and currency transactions in the amount of \$200,000 or more. In this connection, will the executive authorities inform this Council:*

- (a) *of the reasons for not making the Register available for public inspection on the government websites; and*
- (b) *whether they have assessed if withholding from the public information on the aforesaid financial interests declared by Executive Council Members is in compliance with the principles of enhancing the openness, transparency and accountability of their governance; and whether they plan to make public these financial interests declared by Executive Council Members; if they have no such plan, of the reasons for that?*

CHIEF SECRETARY FOR ADMINISTRATION: Madam President, the Executive Council has a long-established mechanism for declaration of interests. On their first appointment and annually thereafter, Executive Council Members have to furnish a return on their registrable interests to the Executive Council Secretariat for record. Executive Council Members are also required to declare

their interests before the deliberation on individual issues at Executive Council meetings.

Executive Council Members have to declare interests in the Register which is made readily available at the Executive Council Secretariat for public inspection. This covers, among other things, essential information on the financial interests of Executive Council Members, including remunerated directorships, remunerated employments, land and properties and companies in which Executive Council Members hold shareholdings of a nominal value greater than 1% of the issued share capital. Having regard to the more prevalent use of the Internet nowadays, we are actively considering the uploading of the Register onto the website.

In addition to the interests recorded in the Register available for public inspection, Executive Council Members are also required to declare to the Chief Executive, on a confidential basis, more detailed financial interests (including day-to-day shareholding and currency transactions). In deciding what information should be made available for public inspection, we need to strike a balance between transparency on the one hand, and the need to protect the privacy of the Members on the other. What is important about the declaration of interests system is that these interests, whether they are open or not, must be recognized, their significance weighed and duly taken into account.

Under the current requirements, the information made available for public inspection has served the purpose of public scrutiny. The registered information enables the Chief Executive to assess whether there is or may be a conflict of interest between an Executive Council Member's interests and investments and his/her official capacity. He may require the Member concerned to take appropriate measures to avoid any conflict of interests. The registered information also enables the Chief Executive to assess whether an Executive Council Member has potential or actual conflict of interests in a discussion item of an Executive Council meeting and whether he/she should be asked to withdraw from the meeting.

The current declaration system has been in place for years and proven to be effective. It strikes a proper balance between the need for transparency and openness and the need to protect the privacy of the Executive Council Members. We consider the system appropriate and do not intend to change it.

**Relevant documents on System of declaration of interests
by Members of the Executive Council**

<u>Meeting</u>	<u>Meeting Date</u>	<u>Paper/Question</u>
Legislative Council ("LegCo")	16 June 1999	Official Record of Proceedings of an oral question raised by Hon Emily LAU Wai-hing on "Declaration of interests by Executive Council Members"
Panel on Constitutional Affairs	7 October 2002	Minutes of meeting [LC Paper No. CB(2)379/02-03]
	21 October 2002	<p>Background Brief on "Accountability system for principal officials and related issues - declaration and handling of investments/interests" prepared by the LegCo Secretariat [LC Paper No. CB(2)2868/01-02(01)]</p> <p>Administration's paper on "Declaration of interests by the Chief Executive, Members of the Executive Council and principal officials under the accountability system" [LC Paper No. CB(2)2868/01-02(02)]</p> <p>Information Note on "Selected issues relating to declaration of interests and avoidance of conflicts of interests by senior members of Government" prepared by Research and Library Services Division [IN35/01-02]</p> <p>Supplementary Information Note on "Selected issues relating to declaration of interests and avoidance of conflicts of interests by senior members of Government" prepared by Research and Library Services Division [IN03/02-03]</p> <p>Administration's paper on "Declaration and handling of investments/interests" [LC Paper No. CB(2)114/02-03(01)]</p>

<u>Meeting</u>	<u>Meeting Date</u>	<u>Paper/Question</u>
		Minutes of meeting [LC Paper No. CB(2)545/02-03]
	--	Background Brief on "Prevention of conflict of interest of principal officials and related issues" prepared by the LegCo Secretariat [LC Paper No. CB(2)726/02-03(01)]
Legislative Council	16 June 2004	Official Record of Proceedings of a written question raised by Hon Emily LAU Wai-hing on "Declaration of interests by Executive Council Members"
Panel on Constitutional Affairs	16 November 2009	Administration's paper on "System of Declaration of Interests by the Chief Executive and Officials under the Political Appointment System" [LC Paper No. CB(2)244/09-10(03)] Background brief on "System of Declaration of Interests by the Chief Executive and Principal Officials under the Accountability System" prepared by the LegCo Secretariat [LC Paper No. CB(2)244/09-10(04)] Minutes of meeting [LC Paper No. CB(2)1052/09-10]